



**JULY2021**

**VOLUME 18, ISSUE 07**

**©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK**

## FROM THE EDITOR!

Hello again!

Another month has come and gone... At least the weather has moderated somewhat, getting close to normal seasonal levels. We have some good content this month from our members. Please keep that coming in.

We're coming up on our yearly big club event: Salmon Run! This is when we try to work all 39 Washington state counties from our club station W7DK. We took an operating event like this and turned it into a fund raiser for the club.

It works like this: a pledge form will be published on the w7dk.org website. To take advantage of the opportunity to pledge a contribution to the club, download the form. You can fill it electronically or print it and fill it out manually. Electronically-filled pledge forms can be emailed to the club, and printed ones can be returned via postal mail or drop-off at the clubhouse.

This is not like those darned PBS pledge drives that you see on public TV all the time.

No! This is a totally optional thing that we do to have fun and maybe give our club a bit more funding to keep the lights on at W7DK.

In the event that you don't feel the need to donate monetarily, the club will be OK with that. There will still be a need for club participation in other ways like committees or just showing up at the club on Saturdays.

Support your club: attend meetings, club events or volunteer for a committee!

73, Gary WG7X



Page 1: Editors report.

Page 2: BOD Meeting minutes.

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Page 10: WB4SPB Field day!

Page 11: MAILBAG!

**Radio Club of Tacoma****Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****July 7, 2021****Meeting called to order at 19:01 by President Mike W7XTZ****Officers and Directors Present**

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Board Verna Lilly KF7SCB

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

**Quorum?** A quorum was present and 15 people attended the meeting. The attendance list is attached.**Silent Key or Illness?**

None offered

**Approval of Minutes** of June 2, 2021 RCT BOD meeting**A motion** was made by Bruce WE7P and seconded to approve the minutes as posted. **Motion passed.****Secretary's Report (W7MKE)**

New property valuation has come in upping our property valuation by about 17%.

Application for Crawford Mountain Repeater was mailed June 28<sup>th</sup> and to date we've had no response.

2019 990N filing has not been made and the IRS has requested we do so.

A new list of amateur radio licensees came for July and 14 letters were prepared to go out to them inviting them to visit RCT.

**Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)**

Steve AF7YD submitted a packet of information for YTD through June showing the difference in format and nomenclature between a for-profit business and a non-profit organization. The statement of Financial Income and Expense is attached.

**Committee / Reports****Membership (KJ7GGB)**

George K7GRS reported that Juan KJ7GGB had some health issues and recently reported to George that he was still available. Membership stands at 265.

**Library (AD7AV)**

No report

**Training (AD7AB)**

Stephen AD7AB reported the RCT website is up to date about Technician training which will happen in October, November and December. Dave Brooks N7HT is setting up for General and Extra classes for later in this year and early next year.

**VE (AC7WW)**

John AC7WW was present and reported: We had a drive-in testing session June 8<sup>th</sup> in the clubhouse parking lot. Three VE's were in the parking lot and four VEs in the clubhouse grading and doing the paperwork. We had 10 candidates with 16 exams graded. Six new Technicians joined the Amateur Service, two candidates upgraded to General Class. One candidate passed elements 2 & 3 to become a General Class and another candidate passed element 2, 3 and 4 to become an Extra Class: Thanks to the following for their service and time: Leonard KA7NWF; Jan K7HTU; Rich KK7VH; Stephen AD7AB; Phillip K7PIA and Whit KG7LNZ.

John stated the cost of blue & white plastic RCT Badges is now \$13.57 and the club only charges \$13. **Steve AF7YD moved that the badge cost be raised to \$15. It was seconded. Motion Passed.**

John stated that awhile back in *QST* a new member kit was demonstrated. John's new member kit is a file folder with information about how to get on the air, how to operate and applications for RCT membership. He asked for comments. Cost for the new member kits is about \$6 per copy which John has paid for himself so far. He gives these to all the applicants who pass VE testing here at the club.

**Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)**

Randy WB4SPB reported the clubhouse computer systems are operating nominally. As far as he knows the website is up to date. He is always happy to receive reports of missing or broken links or other issues that need correction.

**HF Operations (K7PIA)**

Stations seem to be working OK. For contests see [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com). The VHF/UHF station is still scheduled to be moved upstairs into the HF room.

**Repeater Ops (N7OMS)**

No report

**Facilities Management (W2NCC)**

Adam W2NCC reported the hedges need to be trimmed more. John Marsden KI7YRC has taken over lawn mowing. We still have not power washed the siding, and other projects are still pending. He also indicated some work needs to be done on attic ventilation.

Paul W7PFU and Jan K7HTU are going to work on the lawn and grounds as well. Paul reported there is a need for an electric weed eater.

**Property Management (WB7EC)**

Red WB7EC reported that there was no PMT activity in June. He received an offer to purchase some of our items but it was for 50% less than we were asking so the offer was rejected until members had an opportunity to check those items first to see if they wanted them or if we'd keep them for M&K.

**Museum (KR7W)**

No report

**Weds Workshop (WB4SPB)**

Randy WB4SPB indicated he'd have a session next Wednesday about FD logging submissions rather than waiting for 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday which is too close to deadline. He will also host a 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday activity night but no topic as yet. Both meetings are planned as Zoom Meetings at this time.

**General Meeting (KF7SCB)**

Verna KF7SCB checked the list on ARRL for Radio Club of Tacoma to see who's reported their logs and so far only about 6 or 7 have entered theirs.

For the general meeting we will have a speaker from Western Washington DX Club W7DX about Salmon Run.

Verna has a chance for future education and needs to end her leadership on doing the general meeting program and as FD Leader.

**Unfinished Business**

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Mailings (W7XTZ/WB4SPB)

The committee listed the duties needed for the lead positions and mailings and Randy has recorded them in a written document. Some commitments have come in for helping with some of the needed work.

What to do about old *BARK* PMT listings (WB4SPB)

Now, PMT offerings are listed in membership only areas of the website and posted at the clubhouse and since June all the *BARK* issues were moved to a membership only part of the website to protect PMT listings from common view.

**A motion was made by Bruce WE7P that all *BARK* issues be made available to everyone on our website but new issues should not have PMT listings. In future, PMT listings would be in the members only portion of the website or posted at the club. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.**

**New Business****Where/how to have monthly meetings**

Steve AF7YD indicated that the two Pierce County Library Branches may open in the fall.

A discussion occurred about the time to hold monthly meetings. If the meeting is Saturday afternoon then there is a group here at the club and another group at the Eagle's or wherever the meeting is. Also Saturday is a family day. Wednesday night meeting seemed to be better attended but has the issue of night driving. It was decided to have the July Monthly Meeting via ZOOM.

Several people have looked at various sites but there is nothing firm now as to time of meeting or place to have them. Several places are still under consideration and this topic will be addressed again next meeting.

**What to do about the fair (AD7AB)**

Stephen AD7AB indicated there's not much we can do about being at the WA State Fair as they've changed their policy about clubs.

**What to do about membership renewal of former members**

George K7GRS reported a significant number of people didn't renew in 2021 membership for reasons perhaps related to lack of club availability and uncertainty of future under Covid-19. Bylaws stipulate that new applicants can join the club for ½-price after June 30 but lapsed members must still pay full annual price. George suggested offering a one-time, half-year deal for those who were current last year but did not renew, with the "carrot" that this would secure their voting rights in November, plus avoiding having to pay for 2021 anyway or wait till 2023 to renew (two-year lapsed rule in Bylaws).

**Bruce WE7P moved that we allow 2021-lapsed RCT members to renew for half-price for 2021 only. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.** Adam W2NCC agreed to call those members to encourage renewals.

We need to ratify remote meetings, which are not now technically allowed by our bylaws.

**Bruce WE7P moved to ratify any and all actions of the Board taken during remote meetings both Board Meetings and General meetings due to the Covid Emergency. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.**

**Forming a bylaws committee**

The State's RCWs recently changed and as of January 1, 2021 nonprofits are required to review their bylaws for compliance to the new RCWs. Mike-W7XTZ, as President, appointed an Ad Hoc bylaws committee of: Doug Schafer AB7DG, George Salisbury K7GRS and Peter Baker AD7EU to review the bylaws for potential changes.

**Activity Reports and Discussion Topics****Announcements**

Field Day at Home patches are available at RCT Clubhouse or by contacting Secretary Mike-W7MKE. A donation to RCT is requested but not required.

Adam W2NCC stated he needs a CW operator for Salmon Run.

**Adjournment at: 21:03**

**Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting****July 10, 2021****ZOOM MEETING**

**Meeting Called to Order at: 13:30 local by Mike-W7XTZ**

**Officers and Directors Present**

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Board Verna Lilly KF7SCB

Board Paul Matney K7PFU

**Quorum? (10% of membership required to “conduct business”)**

A quorum was not present and 21 people attended all or part of the meeting

**Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors**

John Zantek W7CD and Rusty W6OAT from the Western Washington DX Club (W7DX) were visiting.

**Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness**

Greta Hewlett KF7KSW had a fall and broke her leg. She's in hospital but for now, we don't have more information.

**Secretary's Report (W7MKE)**

Mike W7MKE reported new property valuation was received upping our property valuation by about 17%.

The application for Crawford Mountain Repeater was mailed June 28<sup>th</sup> and to date we've had no response.

2019 990N filing has not been made and the IRS has requested we do so.

A new list of amateur radio licensees came for July and 14 letters were prepared to go out inviting them to visit RCT.

Please tell Mike if you encounter a new visitor at W7DK.

**Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)**

No report. Mike W7ME summarized the treasurer's report to the BOD, see July BOD minutes.

**Committee / Activity Reports**

**Membership (K7GRS)**

No Report. At the BOD meeting, it was learned that about 20 members who typically renew did not renew in 2021 possibly due to Covid reducing club opportunities. According to bylaws, new members joining after June 30<sup>th</sup> can get membership at ½ price but former RCT members must pay full price to be reinstated. The BOD offered former members to renew at ½ price for 2021.

**Training (AD7AB)**

No Report. Stephen indicated at BOD meeting that Technician training will resume in October and Dave Brooks N7HT will prepare to have a General Class and Extra Class training late this year and early next year.

**VE Report (AC7WW)**

No report. John AC7WW reported at RCT BOD: We had a drive-in testing session June 8<sup>th</sup> in the clubhouse parking lot. Three VE's were in the parking lot and four VEs in the clubhouse grading and doing the paperwork. We had 10 candidates with 16 exams graded. Six new Technicians joined the Amateur Service, two candidates upgraded to General Class. One candidate passed elements 2 & 3 to become a General Class and another candidate passed element 2, 3 and 4 to become an Extra Class:

Thanks to the following for their service and time: Leonard KA7NWF; Jan K7HTU; Rich KK7VH; Stephen AD7AB; Phillip K7PIA and Whit KG7LNZ.

John stated the cost of blue & white plastic RCT Badges is now \$13.57 and the club only charges \$13. The RCT BOD voted to raise the price of the blue and white badge to \$15.

John stated that awhile back in *QST* a new member kit was demonstrated. John's new member kit is a file folder with information about how to get on the air, how to operate and applications for RCT membership. He asked for comments. Cost for the new member kits is about \$6 per copy which John has paid for himself so far. He gives these to all the applicants who pass VE testing here at the club.

**HF Operations (K7PIA)**

No report. At BOD meeting Phil stated all stations were working normally. Check [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com) for radio sport.

**Repeater Operations (N7OMS)**

No report.

**IT Report (WB4SPB)**

Randy WB4SPB reported all computer systems are operating nominally. If anyone finds something amiss on the website please let Randy know so he can fix it.

**Museum (KR7W)**

No report. Rich Patrick is moving so we are looking for a new Museum lead.

**Property Management (WB7EC)**

No report. At July BOD it was reported no June sales.

**Facilities Management (W2NCC)**

Adam W2NCC reported that club is getting caught up. John Marsden KI7YRC has taken over lawn maintenance and Paul W7PFU and Jan also stepped up to do some lawn work. We have new fiber optic phone into the club and we need to move the fiber optic modem.

**4<sup>th</sup> Wed. Night Activity (WB4SPB)**

No program has been determined as yet but looks for email blast or information on RCT website about it.

Next Wednesday night we will have a zoom meeting for anyone needing help in submitting their field day logs.

**Bark Editor (WG7X)**

No report. Gary is always looking for articles or information for the *BARK*.

**Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business .

**New Business**

No new business

**Program (KF7SCB)**

Verna introduced John Zantek W7CD and Rusty W6OAT from Western Washington DX Club, the sponsors The Washington Salmon Run who presented the program.

**John made the point that this is NOT the WA State QSO party.**

- Formerly QSO parties were to have fun with radios .
- Were planned events
- They were to build confidence
- Experience real time Propagation
- Time in the chair
- Testing the endurance of your station

**The Salmon run is NOT a contest even though some elements of a contest are present**

- Some QSO Parties are serious contests
- Some QSO Parties have operators with huge investments in gear
- Contesting station are often only heard during contests
- Many Salmon Run participants do not submit logs: is this because they think they need a big score?

**Please submit your log, even if not a big score: It is NOT a CONTEST**

Originally the WA State QSO party was sponsored by BEARS 1960- 1987 but they split up into several groups and ended the QSO party. In the last 3 years, Salmon Run has been growing in participants . Salmon run is two days but NOT ALL NIGHT so it is more friendly than a Contest.

- Salmon Run allows for County line contacts—good for two counties with one contact.
- W7DX includes bonus stations (contact with W7DX) for various modes.
- Certificates go to all participants who submit a log.

**The rarest county is the one you don't get!**

- Historically, Stevens, Douglas and Grays Harbor counties are have been hardest to get.
- On W7DX website is a list of rovers or people who are activating a particular county.



- If you want to work WA, be aware of antennas and propagation an NVIS antenna is your friend as is 75-80 meters.
- Lots of home stations and they do well with modest power and modest antennas
- Expeditions are super important for Salmon Run and really help with the “rare” counties
- Mobiles are super too. They often go in pairs and can sit on county lines. Most are CW operators.
- Club operations. There is a category called aggregated call record so clubs are very important.
- Last year RCT (W7DK) finished 4<sup>th</sup> for clubs. Redmond finished first last year.
- 20M CW offers lots of opportunities for points with out of state contacts

Last year we had 47 Clean Sweeps, huge number historically . Two ways to operate:

#### **Search and Pounce**

- Less stressful
  - Can copy information easier .
  - Can search for multipliers .
  - Disadvantages .
- Not as many QSO ‘s.

#### **Running (Calling CQ)**

- It can be busier and if so, requires more operator skill
- Disadvantage to calling CQ, can’t find rare counties

#### **Logs should be sent in Cabrillo format submitted electronically**

If you contact a Salmon Run W7DX station you can get a QSL card from them.

#### **Before sending your Log**

- Review header .
- check the QSO Data.
- Save a Copy.
- Upload your log to the web: [slamonrun.wwdxc.org](http://slamonrun.wwdxc.org)
- John challenged RCT to send in 10 logs.

#### **Q&A following:**

Some rovers already confirmed for this year and are posted on website: no one has volunteered for Western side of the State yet

#### **Show and Tell**

Nothing offered

**Tuning and Traffic**

Walt WA7SDY indicated he has been able to check into the noontime net and was heard by a station in Reno running only 30W with is compromised antenna in his small apartment.

**Announcements/Discussions**

RCT will no longer have a presence at the WA State Fair as the Fair has discontinued giving us a free booth.

Mike W7XTZ asked attendees their feeling about having monthly meetings “split” like we did this time with Zoom from club and individuals joining from home. There didn’t seem to be any objections to the format and 3-4 positive comments about it.

Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society Tailgate Swap Meet 7-24-21 09:00 at SW Washington Fairgrounds Chehalis, WA (Contact John K7OSK @ boatanchor.com or 360-273-5929 or cvars.org

Please volunteer at the club, there are lots of opportunities to help out.

Adjournment at 15:00 Local

**Submitted by**

**Mike Drorbaugh**

**RCT Secretary**

Field day report from Radio WB4SPB. Remember how hot it was that weekend?



Randy, WB4SPB reports: Field Day fell on the hottest days of the year, so I moved my TS-590SG to a basement workbench where temps were very tolerable. I got an old, ladder-line-fed 88-foot doublet out of storage and put it up as an inverted vee with the apex at about 25 feet. Although I had to repeat my call sign a lot, I made a bit more than 100 Qs on 20, 40 and 80M CW.

# MAILBAG!

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## From Al, N7OMS, a report on a recent “Bunny Hunt”!

Armed with my four Bunnies I headed into the Point Defiance Park. It was a quiet Sunday morning and recent intel told me the weather was going to be cool and wet. Having scouted out my four locations earlier in the week there was no reason to hesitate. It was to be a quick insertion and then rendezvous with the rest of the members of the hunt team.

The weather was likely to keep the numbers of participant's down but that was okay. Just being out in the park and hiking around was a reward in itself. It reminded me of camping trips as a young sprout.

This was going to be the first time that I was in charge of hiding all the bunnies so the pressure was on to make the hunt fun for all. Some not too hard and at least one to challenge the more experienced hunters in the club. As an added bonus to this event, it was W7MKE Mike's birthday and we had arranged to have a cake for him.

If you have not done any Radio Direction Finding or bunny hunting then you are missing out on the side of ham radio that is indeed unique to the hobby. It is a fairly low-cost activity and most of the equipment can be home made. You will also learn a skill that has uses outside of ham radio. Such as search and rescue and finding sources of radio interference. The club will continue to sponsor hunts in the future so be sure to look for hunt times and places. Hopefully something in early August. We have some equipment to loan and personal that can help to get you started. You don't even need a license to hunt so this is a perfect starting place for those younger members of the family.

I want to thank MikeW7MKE, Rich KR7W, Jim AG7LO, Wade W7ITL, Phil K7PIA, the other Mike W7XTZ for braving the elements and a very special thanks to Paul W7PFU for bringing the cake and other members of his family. It was wet but fun so I hope to see others at the next hunt.

Till then this is your hunt master Al N7oms.





## Bunny Hunt PIX!!

To the left, we see Jim AG7LO and Club President Mike W7XTZ getting ready for the hunt.

Below, is Phil K7PIA on the hunt!







Here we have Rich, KR7W, Paul W7PFU and Jim AG7LO doing what hams all do best: standing around, sometimes with hands in pockets!

... And yes it was unseasonably cold and wet that day!







Left; We see Paul W7PFU proudly displaying his “First Hunter” slip for beating the rest of the crew to the bunny!

Right: it was Mike’s birthday, or close enough! Here we see the nice cake that our resident “Iron Chef” Paul W7PFU, brought for Mike W7MKE!

Unfortunately, no one thought to rotate the cake...



## THE CLUB LINEUP

### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

### 5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Verna Lilly KF7SBC- KF7SCB@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

THE *LOGGER'S BARK* is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*... and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

### LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

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Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma

ARRL Liaison: Unassigned

Send articles to: bark-editor at w7dk.org, or Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org).

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Logger's Bark if a credit line is included in the article. Please seek permission from the original writer also.

**MEMBERSHIP INFO:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is \$35 per calendar year or \$30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

[www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org) [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

### RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3